



**BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS '94
NEWSLETTER AND FINAL REPORT
FROM THE BACK TO BATOCHÉ PLANNING COMMITTEE,
SASK METIS SPORT, CULTURE, RECREATION & YOUTH INC.**

September 1, 1994, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada

Editor's Note:

The "Back To Batoche Days" festivities are the most important cultural focus of the Metis Nation. "Back To Batoche Days" has been an annual event of the Metis people since the late 1880s. In essence, it is the Metis peoples' century-long celebration of their culture and heritage. "Back To Batoche Days" symbolize the Metis' ongoing struggle for recognition, for dignity, for land, and for a secure sense of place in the past, present and future of this country. This year's celebrations were an unparalleled success with over 20,000 in paid attendance over three beautiful summer days.

THANK YOU to all of our generous sponsors and tireless volunteers and to all in attendance.

And fresh from the positive experience of this year's "Back To Batoche Days" the Batoche Planning Committee has already begun deliberations on next year's "Back To Batoche Days"...and the year after that...and the decade after that one.

Even though the Metis people have been gathering at this historic and important site for more than 100 years...there are still no permanent structures in place. We have no bathrooms, flush-toilets, showers, or any

secure and permanent structures to protect our elders from the heat of the sun or the beating of the rain. Moreover, someday soon, the Batoche site will be the seat of government for the entire Metis Nation. The time to address the concerns raised above is now, before the federal government decides to cut the available funding avenues. In an effort to rectify this long-overdue and developmental oversight, the Batoche Planning Committee has initiated discussions with the Federal Department of Western Economic Diversification (Honourable Lloyd Axworthy).

Together with Wanuskewin and the Batoche National Historic Site, a more appropriately developed "Back To Batoche Days" venue would certainly become an important cog in the evolution of the Native/Metis "Cultural Tourism" industry in northcentral Saskatchewan.

In addition, the Batoche Planning Committee has taken out a membership in The Heart of Canada's Old Northwest Tourism Region (a provincially developed tourism marketing region extending from Prince Albert to North Battleford to Saskatoon). This membership/association will assist--in both a networking and a monetary sense--in the television, radio and press

promotion and marketing of "Back To Batoche Days."

Next year, we want to see a more distinct cultural emphasis placed on "Back To Batoche Days." Bob Rock's play/teleplay entitled, "The Missing Bell of Batoche"--which is scheduled to make its debut at the 1995 "Back To Batoche Days" venue--will contribute considerably toward that cultural and educational end.

What would you like to see happening at next year's "Back To Batoche Days?" Let us know; write in your comments and suggestions. I'd like to see a giant mural painting contest amongst Metis artists. I'd like to see well-known Metis Writer Maria Campbell hold a Creative Writing workshop and writing contest right on the site. I'd like to see vehicle parking completely restructured and moved away from the main-tent area. I'd like to see the Batoche site used more often and for a variety of events and occasions throughout the entire year, and not just used once-a-year for "Back To Batoche Days." What do you think?

Readers with photographs showing "Back To Batoche Days" and area scenes or people from the past are asked to submit them to the person and office listed below. The photos will be reproduced and possibly published in conjunction with upcoming copies of this newsletter. All original photos will be returned promptly to their owner.

Kindly send your comments and suggestions and photos to:

Bob Rock, Back To Batoche Days Planning Committee, Sask Metis, Sport, Culture, Recreation &

Youth Inc.

48 - 12th Street East
Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2,
953-8266.



****DID YOU KNOW?***

- THAT 1995 MARKS THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF SASKATCHEWAN AS A PROVINCE WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION OF CANADA.

- THAT **SCRIP** IS A CERTIFICATE GIVING THE OWNER THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE PAYMENT LATER IN THE FORM OF CASH, GOODS OR LAND; USED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DISTRIBUTE LAND TO MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS, NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE AND METIS; THE NOTES LOOK LIKE PAPER MONEY AND WERE ISSUED IN MONETARY VALUES OF \$80, \$160, \$240, OR 80 ACRES, 160 ACRES AND 240 ACRES.

- THAT THE ORIGINAL COMMUNITY OF RED RIVER WAS SETTLED ALMOST ENTIRELY BY THE METIS. BY 1869, OVER 80% OF THE 12,000 PEOPLE AT RED RIVER WERE METIS.

- THAT SECTION 35, OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982 RECOGNIZES AND AFFIRMS METIS ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. THIS MEANS THAT THE METIS ARE AN

ABORIGINAL PEOPLE UNDER SECTION 91(24) OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 1867 AND LANDS RESERVED FOR ABORIGINALS ALSO APPLIES TO THE METIS.

- THAT CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, REVEREND JAMES NISBET WAS NOT THE FOUNDING FATHER OF PRINCE ALBERT. JAMES ISBISTER--A METIS SCOUT, FARMER, INTERPRETER AND BUSINESSMAN--HAD A THRIVING SETTLEMENT IN THE P.A. AREA FOUR YEARS BEFORE REVEREND NISBET EVEN ARRIVED.

BACK TO BATOCHE DAYS '94 EVENT WINNERS

JUNIOR SQUARE-DANCING

- Riel Memorial Dancers - 1st
- Junior Stompers - 2nd
- Debden Stompers - 3rd

SENIOR SQUARE-DANCING



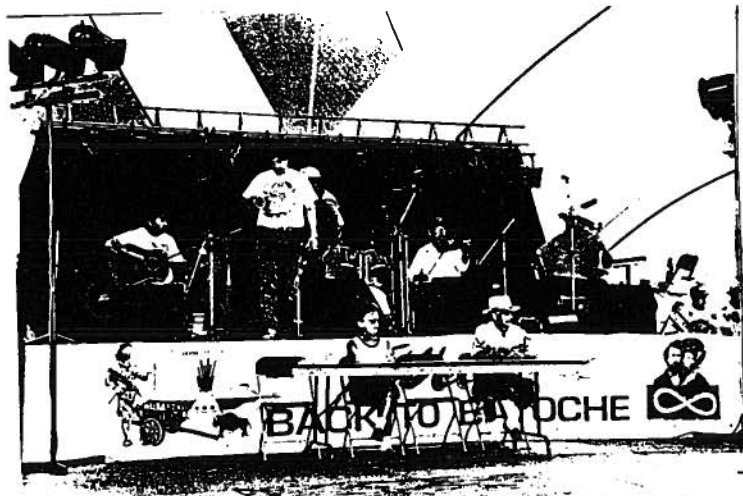
- Cumberland House - 1st
- P.A. IMFC - 2nd
- Edmonton IMFC - 3rd

JUNIOR FIDDLER (18 AND UNDER)

- Theresa Campbell - 1st

SENIOR FIDDLER (18 TO 60)

- Henry Gariepy - 1st
- Abe Gerard - 2nd
- Darryl McCullium - 3rd



GOLDEN SENIOR (60+)

- Ernest Umperville - 1st
- Henry McKay - 2nd

MEN'S JIGGING (18 AND OVER)

- Brent Potskin - 1st
- Don McHugh - 2nd
- Ovide Campbell - 3rd

MEN'S JIGGING (18 TO 60)

- Joey Gladue - 1st
- Todd Bear - 2nd
- Darren LaChance - 3rd

BOY'S JIGGING (18 AND UNDER)

- Luke Cappel - 1st
- Warren Isbister - 2nd
- Dustin Keewatin - 3rd

WOMEN'S JIGGING (18 AND OVER)

- Trish McKay - 1st
- Joy Aubichon - 2nd
- Jolene Aubichon - 3rd

WOMEN'S JIGGING (13 TO 18)

- Cheryl Gamble - 1st
- Terri Lynn Bishop - 2nd
- Crystal Lalibertie - 3rd

WOMEN'S JIGGING (12 AND UNDER)

Florence Regnier - 1st
Cheryl Arcand - 2nd
Crystal Prosper - 3rd

KING & QUEEN TRAPPER EVENTS

Men's Buckskin Parade



1st - Angus McLeod
2nd - Franklin Carrier
3rd - David Ross
4th - Kevin Seuter

Women's Buckskin Parade

1st - Maggie Roberts
2nd - Georgia McLeod

Men's Animal Calls

1st - Kevin Seuter
2nd - David Ross
3rd - Franklin Carrier
4th - Angus McLeod

Women's Animal Calls

1st - Georgia McLeod
2nd - Maggie Roberts

Men's Flour Portage

1st - Angus McLeod
2nd - David Ross
3rd - Franklin Carrier
4th - Kevin Seuter

Men's Log Toss

1st - David Ross
2nd - Angus McLeod
3rd - Kevin Seuter
4th - Franklin Carrier

Women's Log Toss

1st - Georgia McLeod
2nd - Maggie Roberts

Men's Trap Setting

1st - Franklin Carrier
2nd - David Ross
3rd - Angus McLeod
4th - Kevin Seuter

Women's Trap Setting

1st - Maggie Roberts
2nd - Georgia McLeod

Men's Swede Saw

1st - Angus McLeod
2nd - Franklin Carrier
3rd - David Ross
4th - Kevin Seuter

Men's Axe Throwing

1st - Franklin Carrier
2nd - David Ross
3rd - Kevin Seuter
4th - Angus McLeod

Women's Hatchet Throw

1st - Georgia McLeod
2nd - Maggie Roberts

KING TRAPPER OVERALL

1st - Angus McLeod
2nd - David Ross
3rd - Franklin Carrier
4th - Kevin Seuter

QUEEN TRAPPER OVERALL

1st - Georgia McLeod
2nd - Maggie Roberts

SLO-PITCH WINNERS

1ST - PINEHOUSE MIGHTY METIS
2ND - LAND SHARKS (PRINCE ALBERT)
3RD - SASKATOON KARDS
4TH - MARQUIS BILLIARD SHARKS (PRINCE ALBERT)

CHUCKWAGONS

Friday

- 1. Allen Edwards - 81.83
- 2. Vern Johnstone - 82.03
- 3. Bob Harris - 83.35
- 4. Herb Sanderson - 83.57
- 5. George Cappel - 83.95

Saturday

- 1. Herb Sanderson - 80.71
- 2. Bob Harris - 81.13
- 3. John Badger - 81.89
- 4. George Cappel - 82.13
- 5. Spencer Musqua - 83.95

Sunday

- 1. Herb Sanderson - 80.36
- 2. Norman Sinclair - 80.69
- 3. Bruce Sinclair - 80.79
- 4. Vern Johnstone - 80.99
- 5. Allen Edwards - 81.22

Total Over All For Three Days

- 1. Herb Sanderson - 244.64
- 2. Bob Harris - 246.31
- 3. Vern Johnstone - 247.69
- 4. George Cappel - 248.64
- 5. Bruce Sinclair - 249.84

Best Dressed

Todd Parenteau

26 Chuckwagon Entries

CHARIOTS



Friday

- 1. Herb Sanderson Jr. - 76.15

- 2. Allen Edwards - 77.36
- 3. Ron Sanderson - 77.38
- 4. Martin Sanderson - 79.57
- 5. Herb Sanderson - 79.87

Saturday

- 1. Herb Sanderson - 75.72
- 2. Allen Edwards - 76.03
- 3. Herb Sanderson - 77.11
- 4. James LaVallee - 77.31
- 5. Martin Sanderson - 78.10

Sunday

- 1. Herb Sanderson Jr. - 74.75
- 2. Allen Edwards - 75.81
- 3. Martin Sanderson - 76.30
- 4. Herb Sanderson - 76.33
- 5. Vern Johnstone - 76.70

Total Overall For Three Days

- 1. Herb Sanderson - 226.62
- 2. Allen Edwards - 229.20
- 3. Herb Sanderson - 233.31
- 4. Ron Sanderson - 233.94
- 5. Martin Sanderson - 233.97

Best Dressed

John Badger

40 Chariot Entries

TALENT SHOW WINNERS

Senior

- 1. Doyle Ironstand
- 2. Mitch Daigneault
- 3. Shannon Polsfut

Junior

- 1. Dawn Bishop
- 2. Charlene Gerard
- 3. Loretta King

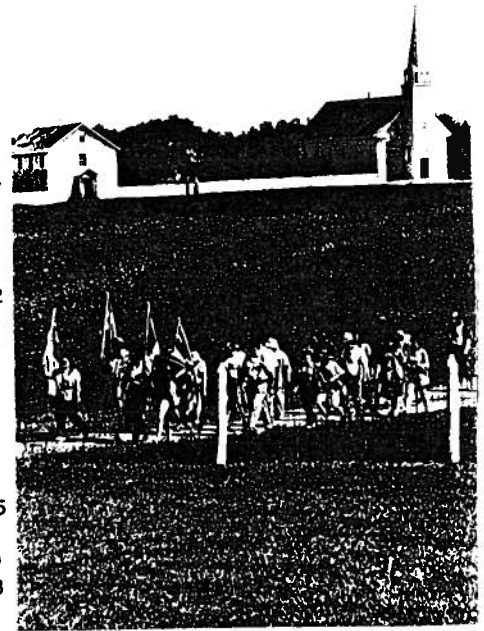
BANNOCK BAKING WINNERS

Senior

- 1. Dellilah Carriere
- 2. Annette Sutherland
- 3. Marlene Laliberte

Junior

- 1. Connie Sutherland
- 2. Janelle Dubois
- 3. Sarah Carriere Burns



HORSESHOE EVENT WINNERS

1. Lawrence Pocha
2. Herman Fiddler
3. Bill Sanderson
4. Steve Fiddler

MINISTER'S REPORT



As the Minister responsible for Metis Sport, Recreation, Culture & Youth as well as "Back To Batoche Days" and the Batoche Site, I would like to thank all of the people for coming out to support "Back To Batoche Days" this year. Thank you all for making our unique celebration such a great success. I would like to thank all of my Western Region II Board Members for their help and support over the past two-and-one-half years. I would like to thank our sponsors, particularly the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage and the Provincial Saskatchewan Lotteries for their generous

funding and support. I also want to thank all of the participants of the Metis Legislative Assembly (MLA) who journeyed, at their own expense, to the Batoche Site to take part in this historic gathering. And, last but not least, I would like to thank all of the staff and the volunteers for organizing and facilitating this year's "Back To Batoche Days."

We, as a Metis Nation, must begin working together toward our common goals. The attitude of the Metis Nation must change...we must rid ourselves of the petty jealousies and in-fighting that has blackened our reputation over the past year. The Locals, from the Presidents on down to the members, must become more actively involved in the economic and political development of our communities, our regions and our province.

In the next few months, I will be travelling throughout the province, visiting the different regions and setting up regional recreational planning sessions. We want your input. We want to begin constructing a workable and reasonable 5-year plan for building and developing Metis recreation in each region of the province. We would like each Metis Local to begin identifying key regional recreational people to sit on these upcoming boards.

Come on people! Let's start building a nation together! God Bless You All!

Edwin Pelletier, Metis Minister of Sport, Recreation, Culture & Youth Inc. and the Minister Responsible For "Back To

Batoche Days" and the Batoche Site.

LETTER TO THE MINISTER:

August 2, 1994

Dear Mr. Edwin Pelletier:

Congratulations on the Back to Batoche Days celebrations. Considering the little time and money available everything went fairly well. I certainly enjoyed the event along with many members from our local. Paul Daigneault mentioned something about an evaluation which I was unable to do. Here are a few things that were mentioned to me.

GOOD POINTS

- Legislative Assembly was well set up. Lots of room for people to listen in on our meetings.
- Fire Works were "very good."
- Fun for the whole family.
- Very good M.C.
- Good Music.
- Good sound system.
- Security was well marked.
- Good to have events on Saturday and Sunday.
- Good talent show.
- Nice to have things over with by 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE "BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS"

- Permanent Building, even if only the roof is on next year. The money spent on renting tents could be put into the cost of a new building and could be used more often.

Perhaps the Legislative Assembly could be held there on Thursday and Friday and then used Friday night, Saturday and Sunday for Back To Batoche Days.

The Plumbing and Electrical could be roughed in for a Kitchen and Bathrooms. In future years once the building is complete it could be rented out for weddings, Reunions, meetings, etc...

- Wheelchair parking available for our elders and handicapped people or even a drop off place close to the main building.

- Pavement or cement work in front of the concession booths in order for cleanliness and access for elders and handicapped people.

- Fix a campground with site numbers so there isn't so much confusion for parking, etc... Perhaps this campground could be developed and used throughout the summer with a grounds-keeper on site.

- Keep information tents together so there isn't so much walking for elders and handicapped people.

- Better security.

- Permanent sign made for "**BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS**" over entrance gates.

- People were unsure of where to register for events. A large map could be set up along with a bulletin board for time and events and general information. This may help with people registering on time. Information packages could be given to the booths so anyone making inquiries could receive information.

- There had been a decision made that there would never be a charge at the gates for entrance to the grounds. Anyone who can produce a Metis Card should not be charged admission or event registration fees. We should be trying to encourage our people to celebrate our culture.

I hope these suggestions are helpful. On the whole the celebration was a

success and we look forward to next year's "BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS."

We would also like a written commitment saying that the St. Louis Local #28 will get the same booth in '95 as we did in '94. We put a lot of volunteer hours into that booth both building and painting. We were hoping to put in some kind of flooring in for next year. We would appreciate a letter of confirmation on this. Thank You.

YOURS TRULY,

Claudette Lavergne, President
St. Louis Local #28

THE FIRST ANNUAL NORTHERN YOUTH CONFERENCE



The first annual Northern Youth Conference took place July 17 to 20, along the white sand beaches of South Point--a 40-minute drive from downtown Ile-a-la-Crosse. About 300 Native and Metis young adults, between the ages of 13 and 19, met near Ile-a-la-Crosse for four days of fun, sport, good food, entertainment, education and lessons in lifeskills.

The Opening Ceremonies

included greetings and speeches from Metis dignitaries such as MNS President, Gerald Morin; Metis Minister of Sport, Recreation, Culture and Youth, Edwin Pelletier; Metis Minister of Health and Wellness, Max Morin; and Ile-a-la-Crosse Mayor, Buckley Belanger.

There was a mild sense of urgency running through the words spoken by the leaders to the youth in attendance. "Among you here today are the leaders that will guide the Native and Metis communities into the 21st century," spoke Gerald Morin. The President of the MNS and the MNC then added, "I have three important words for all of you...STAY IN SCHOOL! For without that education, you will not be prepared to win for your people the self-government, the land claims settlements, the social and economic development that they so justly deserve. Our future rests in your young hands."

Northern Youth Conference workshop topics included "Family Planning," "Solvent Abuse," "Spiritual Awareness," "Discussions on A.I.D.S.," "Anger Management," "Suicide," and a "Stay In School Program."

"By all accounts," said Conference Coordinator, Philip Durocher, "our first annual Northern Youth Conference was a resounding success. And next year's will be even bigger and better."

THE METIS YOUTH SERVICE CANOE TRIP

The roar of the Saskatchewan under a clear, blue, summer sky. The smell of

campfire smoke and bannock baking over open flames. Bronzed, young, Metis canoeists retracing some of the old fur-trading routes along the Churchill, Clearwater and Saskatchewan systems. Listen...one can almost hear the old voyager songs wafting through the northern stillness.

Adventure...romance... humans pitted against nature...unemployed youth investigating possible career options.

The Metis Youth Service Canoe Trip--featuring twenty Metis youths, aged 18 to 24, from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and the Northwest Territories--is a riverine adventure across northern Saskatchewan, beginning in Prince Albert on Friday, August 26 and ending in Cumberland House some 6-7 weeks later.

The purpose of the trip is to introduce young people to the possibility of working in ecotourism, as guides, outfitters, or conservation officers as the trip itself, in turn, re-introduces these youth to their proud Metis and voyageur heritage.

The Federal government is finally putting their money where their mouth is. This is an excellent idea and follow-through and I am sure that the twenty participants will continue to reap the benefits of this positive experience for the rest of their lives.

This is a pilot project sponsored by Youth Services Canada to encourage unemployed youth to investigate career options. The team will be paid a weekly stipend and a bonus upon completion of the trip.

Following the trip, the team will spend two months in job readiness training and research into employment opportunities in guiding and outfitting.

I would like to see some follow-up done on this very worthwhile project and initiative. I hope some enterprising Metis youth will take good advantage of the tremendous potential out-there in the fields of Ecotourism and Cultural Tourism. If the flesh and the spirit are willing and motivated, then participants such as Nathan Favel from Ile-a-la-Crosse should be encouraged--both financially and institutionally--to "set-up-shop" in their own home towns.



MAKING WAVES

Pats Boulter of Fort Providence, N.W.T., front; Senator John Blouhar, middle; and Nathan Favel of Ile-a-la-Crosse, 285 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert, back, take a canoe out on the North Saskatchewan River following a ceremony launching the Metis Youth Services Canoe Trip. Twenty chosen participants from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories are starting a ten- to seven-week canoe trip along traditional Metis fur-trading routes. (Special Photo by Susan Hager)

Metis canoe trip launched Friday in Prince Albert

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As General Manager for Sask Metis Sport, Recreation, Culture & Youth, Inc., I, too, would like to thank everyone for supporting "Back To Batoche Days" 1994. I'd like to say a big heartfelt "thank you" to all of the staff, volunteers and generous sponsors who helped make this year's celebrations so successful and memorable. People in attendance at functions such as this one sometimes don't realize the long hours and heavy commitment that it takes from so many sources and so many individuals.

I am now in the process of completing the 1994 "Back To Batoche Days" Financial Report and a full financial breakdown will be available within the next few weeks.

As you may recall, this year's theme was "Strength Through Culture and Family" as is befitting for the "1994 International Year of the Family." The organizers of this year's "Back To Batoche Days" did everything in their power to see that this year's celebrations concentrated on bringing the entire family out for fun, food, music, dance and a fresh perspective on Metis history, tradition and culture. And I think we succeeded in emphasizing that important theme.

As the Minister has already stated in his report we will soon be travelling throughout the province, visiting the different regions and organizing regional recreational planning sessions. We need your participation in this important matter. Please begin identifying key regional recreational personnel to sit

on these upcoming boards and begin identifying priorities to be discussed at these upcoming board meetings. For instance, it was recently brought to our attention that the St. Louis Rivertown Rebels--Junior B Hockey Team,--has fallen upon hard times and could be facing insolvency. The Office of Sask Metis Sport, Recreation, Culture & Youth is presently looking into the matter and we will do everything in our power to help rectify the situation.

On a slightly gloomier note, the Batoche Planning Committee is sorry to report that, despite the best efforts of our staff and volunteers, some of our own people are committing certain activities that are detracting from positive developments at "Back To Batoche Days." For example, I just received a bill from Houle Rentals stating that 32 chairs and 4 tables and 1 chair dolly--at a total cost of \$1,132.00--were stolen from the Batoche site. That is like stealing something from members of your own family. Please help us nip such activities in-the-bud. And another thing, if and when people "volunteer" their services at "Back To Batoche Days," please don't come to us at the end of the weekend and demand payment for these "voluntary" services. That's not fair to the Metis Nation and we don't have the funds to cover such extra billings.

In summary, I would, once again, like to thank everyone. Thanks to all of you "Back To Batoche Days" 1994 was a great success all-around.

Paul Daigneault, GM

Office of the Minister of Recreation and Culture

#48-12 th Street East Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1B2

Honourable Michel Dupuy, PC, MP
Minister of Canadian Heritage
230 Confederation Building, House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

July 4, 1994

RE: DEPARTMENTAL FUNDING REFUSAL FOR "BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS" 1994

Dear Minister Dupuy:

Further to Roy T. Jacobs' (Director, Native Citizens' Directorate, Department of Communications) letter dated June 20, 1994, concerning your department's funding refusal for "Back To Batoche Days" 1994, we would like to direct your attention to the following points:

1. First and foremost, your department's rejection of our funding application is an insult to the "grassroots" and rank-and-file populace of the Metis Nation. As Minister of Canadian Heritage you should certainly be aware of the fact that "Back To Batoche Days" belongs to the Metis people and culture and **NOT** to the political aspirations of individual Metis politicians and leaders. How dare your bureaucrats paint each and every Canadian Metis person with the tainted brush of the audit of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan? That is simply a narrow-minded and near-sighted approach and certainly not an approach worthy of the Minister of Canadian Heritage. How dare your bureaucrats mortgage our culture and traditions over an audit that is, as I write this, complete and final?

2. "Back To Batoche Days" has been an annual event of the Metis people since the late 1880's. In 1982, after a long and politically astute campaign, the Metis Nation was legally acknowledged as an Aboriginal people in the Canadian Constitution. The "Back To Batoche Days" festivities are the most important Canadian cultural focus of the Metis Nation. And you mean to tell us that your department, the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, is willing to jeopardize the successful staging of this integral cultural event



Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
"Strengthening the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan"
Phone: (306) 953-8265

because of some political and auditing fiasco which is, as already mentioned above, complete and final. With respect to "Back To Batoche Days," the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, and in this particular case, the "needs of the many" amount to \$30,000.00 in funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

3. Mr. Paul Daigneault, Provincial General Manager of Sask Metis Sport, Culture, Recreation and Youth Inc., is a man of honour and integrity. He will see to it that each and every dime of the \$30,000.00 requested from your department will be responsibly allotted and accounted for. You will have spread sheet accountability, receipts and a report within a sixty-day period of the end of the 1994 "Back To Batoche Days."

4. Your average Canadian Metis person, taxpayer, family-man-or-woman is a law-abiding and responsible citizen. And we are getting a little sick and tired of being treated like a herd of thieves and crooks in our own country, in the media and by the government which we helped elect in October of 1993. Should the Ministry of Canadian Heritage deny us our rightful portion of "our" own tax-dollars we will have no choice but to take this insult to the Canadian media for a long and sustained battle over the Federal Government's insensitive and inept mishandling of this funding matter.

5. We demand immediate attention to this matter. We demand the \$30,000.00 as requested previously. We, the Metis Nation "grassroots," demand a written apology from your department for the mishandling and mismanagement of this funding request. "Back To Batoche Days" 1994 begins on July 21, 1994. We expect to hear, in a positive fashion, from your office by July 15, 1994.

We look forward to your rapid and thorough response. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin Pelletier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Edwin Pelletier, Minister of Recreation and Culture, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan

c.c. Prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien
Sheila Finestone, Office of the Secretary of State (Federal)
Shirley Bradley, Program Officer, Department of Canadian Heritage
Gordon Kirkby, MP, Prince Albert-Churchill River
Roy Romanow, Premier of Saskatchewan
Bob Mitchell, Provincial Minister Responsible for Metis Affairs
Carol Carson, Provincial Minister of Municipal Governments, Culture and
Recreation Division
Gerald Morin, President of MNS and MNC (Metis National Council)
Marc LeClaire, Executive Director of MNC



Batoche Planning Committee '94

Metis Nation of Saskatchewan

#48 - 12th Street East Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Phone: (306) 953 - 8266 Fax: (306) 763 - 9587

PRESS RELEASE JULY 8, 1994

BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS, JULY 21-24, 1994: **THE METIS NATION'S CENTURY-LONG CELEBRATION OF** **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

The "Back To Batoche Days" festivities are the most important cultural focus of the Metis Nation. "Back To Batoche Days" has been an annual event of the Metis people since the late 1880's.

What is "Back To Batoche Days?" Quite simply, it is the Metis peoples' century-long celebration of their culture and heritage. It is the time and place when and where we memorialize and pay homage to national heroes such as Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.

"Back To Batoche Days" is: Red River Jig music; fiddling and jigging contests; sizzling bannock burgers; slow-pitch ball tournaments; renewing acquaintances with old friends and making new ones; colourful Metis sashes; beaded leatherwork and Buckskin Parades; Pony Chuckwagon and Chariot races; toe-tapping square dancing events; arts and crafts displays; King and Queen Trapper events. In fact, the jigging, square dancing, fiddling, Talent Contest, and King and Queen Trapper events will be of the "National Metis Championship" calibre.

"Back To Batoche Days" is a great time for Mom and Dad, Grandma, Grandpa and the kids to be a family and have some fun together. "Strength Through Culture and Family" is the theme of this year's "Back To Batoche Days" as is befitting for the "1994 International Year of the Family." Bring the entire family out for fun, food, music, dance and a window on Metis history, tradition and culture. Visit the renowned Batoche National Historic Site nearby. Ferry across the South Saskatchewan River. Picnic in the rolling greenery of the Saskatchewan River Valley.

The "Procession"--to the mass gravesite of fallen Metis fighters from the Riel Resistance--leaves a lasting impression on visitors and locals alike. So, too, will the "Opening Ceremonies" of this year's "Back To Batoche Days"...ceremonies that are designed to honour the all-important institution of the family, War Veterans, and our elders.

Come once and we guarantee that you will want to come "Back To Batoche Days", July 21-24, 1994!



Metis Nation of Saskatchewan

"Strengthening the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan"

Phone: (306) 953-8265

Office of the Minister of Recreation and Culture

#48-12 th Street East Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1B2

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Human Resources Development
and Minister of Western Economic Diversification
Room 418-N, Centre Block,
House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6
Fax: 947-4442

August 4, 1994

**RE: THE "BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS" PLANNING
COMMITTEE REQUESTS GENERAL INFORMATION,
APPLICATION FORMS, AND A WESTERN CANADIAN CONTACT
FOR WESTERN ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION FUNDING**

Dear Minister:

The "Back To Batoche Days" festivities are the most important cultural focus of the Metis Nation. "Back To Batoche Days" has been an annual event of the Metis people since the late 1880's. "Back To Batoche Days" is the Metis peoples' century-long celebration of their culture and heritage. It is the time when we memorialize and pay homage to national heroes such as Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.

The Batoche site is nestled in an area of lush and subtle beauty. It radiates the nation-forming legacy of Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and the continuing struggle of the Metis people.

Yet, more than 100-years after the Metis people first began gathering at this historic and important site...we still have absolutely no permanent structures in place. We have no bathrooms, flush-toilets, showers, or any permanent and secure structures to protect our elders from the heat of the sun or the beating of the rain.

And despite the makeshift tents and the plywood privies and the scores of booths and displays and the rather primitive facilities..."Back To Batoche Days" draws well over 35,000-40,000 people over a three-day period. We had more than 20,000 in paid attendance this year and we expect higher attendance rates in future.



Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
"Strengthening the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan"
Phone: (306) 953-8265

Together with Wanuskewin and the Batoche National Historic Site, a more suitably developed "Back To Batoche Days" venue would certainly become an important cog in the development of the Native/Metis "Cultural Tourism" industry in northcentral Saskatchewan.

Mr. Minister, we need permanent basic structures at the Batoche site. We require a considerable amount of site development in keeping with our projected 5-year management plan for the site and for "Back To Batoche Days."

At this time, we would request WDO application forms, general information about WDO and a Western Canadian contact who would be willing to meet with myself; Paul Daigneault, General Manager, Sask Metis Sports, Recreation, Culture and Youth; and Edwin Pelletier, Metis Minister of Sports, Recreation, Culture, Youth and the Batoche Site.

I look forward to your hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Rock, Batoche Planning Committee
48-12th Street East, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2

Paul Daigneault, General Manager, Sask Metis Sports, Recreation,
Culture and Youth

Edwin Pelletier, Metis Minister of Sports, Recreation, Culture,
Youth and the Batoche Site.

Back To Batoche Planning Committee '94

#48-12 th Street East Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1R2

Honourable Arthur Eggleton
Minister Responsible For Infrastructure
Room 207, Confederation Bldg.
House of Commons, Ottawa K1A 0A6
Fax: 613-941-2421

August 26, 1994

**RE: THE "BACK TO BATOCHÉ DAYS" PLANNING
COMMITTEE REQUESTS GENERAL INFORMATION,
APPLICATION FORMS, AND A WESTERN CANADIAN CONTACT
FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BATOCHÉ SITE**

Dear Minister:

The "Back To Batoche Days" festivities are the most important cultural focus of the Metis Nation. "Back To Batoche Days" has been an annual event of the Metis people since the late 1880's. "Back To Batoche Days" is the Metis peoples' century-long celebration of their culture and heritage. It is the time when we memorialize and pay homage to national heroes such as Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.

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Mr. Minister, we need permanent basic structures at the Batoche site. We require a considerable amount of site development in keeping with our projected 5-year management plan for the site and for "Back To Batoche Days."

At this time, we would request "Infrastructure Development" application forms, general information about the program and a Western Canadian contact who would be willing to meet with myself; Paul Daigneault, General Manager, Sask Metis Sports, Recreation, Culture and Youth; and Edwin Pelletier, Metis Minister of Sports, Recreation, Culture, Youth and the Batoche Site.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Rock, Batoche Planning Committee
48-12th Street East, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2

Paul Daigneault, General Manager, Sask Metis Sports, Recreation,
Culture and Youth

Edwin Pelletier, Metis Minister of Sports, Recreation, Culture,
Youth and the Batoche Site.

Office of the Minister of Recreation and Culture

#48-12 th Street East Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 1B2

Ms. Frances Lafontaine, Coordinator
Western Region II
Metis Employment and Training Centre
48 - 12th Street East
Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2

August 23, 1994

RE: LETTER OF INTENT/
SECTION 25 (UIC)

OBJECTIVE: TO TRAIN PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME SKILLED AND VALUABLE EMPLOYEES LEADING TO FUTURE CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT WITHIN THE LABOUR MARKET WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL GOALS AND PHYSICAL BETTERMENT OF THE BATOCHÉ SITE.

Dear Ms. Lafontaine:

The following is a "letter of intent" submitted in partnership by Metis Western Region II (Area Director--Edwin Pelletier) and Metis Western Region I (Area Director--Daryl Larose). A more detailed workplan and a full-blown budget breakdown will follow in short order.

It is hereby proposed that approximately \$27,000.00 (from both MNS/Western Region II and MNS/Western Region I Pathways monies) be obtained via the "Section 25" designation (UIC Act) to be applied toward the overall developmental goals and physical betterment of the Batoché site.

In keeping with the provisions of the Section 25 designation, this project will create employment and, in turn, enhanced job market skills for the unemployed participants. Moreover, this project is intent on creating employment in a situation/area which would not normally be attended to (i.e. basic building structures at the Batoché site).



Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
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Phone: (306) 953-8265

At a hourly rate of \$7-\$8.00--for 4 workers--over a 7 week period we would be looking at a \$10,000 subtotal (per region) for wages and U.I. benefits. And then taking 7 weeks X 4 workers X \$125.00, we would be looking at a subtotal of \$3500 for overhead, materials and other costs (i.e. lumber, paint, gloves, shovels, etc.).

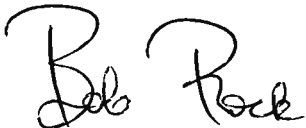
In effect, we would be looking at a Western Region II project subtotal of \$13,500 in combination with a Western Region I project subtotal of \$13,500 for an overall project Grand Total of \$27,000.

As stated above, the figures quoted in this "letter of intent" are rough and rounded-off. A more detailed workplan and a full-blown budget breakdown will follow in the very near future.

I am writing in the hope that this "letter of intent" will suffice in the interim and that this letter will enable the process of this important project to begin moving forward.

Direct all enquiries and concerns toward: Mr. Edwin Pelletier, Area Director for Western Region II, 48-12 Street, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 1B2. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Rock for

Edwin Pelletier, Area Director
Western Region II, Metis Minister of Sport, Recreation, Culture
and Youth.

Missing Bell of Batoche vehicle for story about Metis

V.I. Vanly
Herald
Aug. 11/94

The missing Bell of Batoche is a little known part of the history of the Northwest Resistance. Today, it is the centrepiece of a play which brings more than a century of Metis culture, dreams and struggles into focus.

The bell at the Catholic Church in Batoche was a spoil of battle in 1885. Seized by three Canadian soldiers, it was taken to Millbrook, Ont. There it eventually was displayed at the Millbrook Legion Hall as a trophy of war. But, in 1991, the Millbrook Legion Hall was broken into and the Bell of Batoche was taken away. The disappearance — or theft or repatriation, depending on the point of view — remains a mystery.

The story of the Bell of Batoche first came to my attention when the late Sister Josephine Ouelette, a Roman Catholic nun in Prince Albert, shared her research. Today, Bob Rock, a Prince Albert author-video producer-photographer has written a play —

Wayne Roznowsky



suitable for stage or video production — about the Bell of Batoche.

I recently had an opportunity to read his script/book for The Missing Bell of Batoche. While the experience of reading a screenplay which includes stage directions, etc., doesn't help with the flow of the story, the tale was strong enough to come through those distractions.

Rock's story combines the present and the past to give a sense of the roots of Metis people and their aspirations. One quickly comes to understand many of those dreams which were the foundation of the rebellion led by Louis Riel have

yet to be answered. The Missing Bell of Batoche is also able to capture the drift many Metis people have experienced because that foundation of a land base and distinct status was not laid more than a century ago.

The Missing Bell of Batoche provides a clear Metis point of view of this historical circumstance. It also gives a unflatteringly partisan view of the Millbrook, Ont., "Orangemen" who took and held the Bell of Batoche for more than a century.

For that reason the Missing Bell of Batoche could never be considered a true historical piece. But, as a vehicle for expressing the roots and the soul of the Metis people, it succeeds admirably.

As Rock notes in quoting Sister Ouelette: "The Bell of Batoche stands for the pride and hope of the Metis people."

Wayne Roznowsky is managing editor of the Herald.

A BOUQUET to the organizers of the 1994 Prince Albert Indian and Metis Friendship Centre Powwow.

The annual powwow concludes today and has again been a success. This success has not only been shared by the participants at the powwow but for the entire community.

The theme of this year's powwow is "strength through unity and culture". This applies not only to the aboriginal community but to all of the community of Prince Albert and area. Through an increased awareness of the aboriginal

Herald bouquet

Bible digest

By G.E. DEAN

"And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye

notion of this election will decide the issue of sovereign But the most recent Cl poll results published last v show the Liberals, with estimated 46 per cent of vo closing in on the front-run Parti Quebecois, currently : per cent support.

John Parisella, Libe campaign co-ordinator, said impossible to ignore the s reignty issue when the n competition is committed holding a referendum on sep tion within 10 months of Sept. 12 election.

Parisella, a chief of staff former Liberal premier Ro Bourassa, said he thinks Parti Quebecois campa which has downplayed s reignty issues, is in disarra moderates and radicals be over the fine print of the par platform on separatism.

"We believe the Parti Que cois cannot win with that op (separation) front and cent: Parisella said. "They know and we know it."

However, the cauti approach of the Parti Quebe comes at a time when m voters, both anglophone francophone, are interes more in economic issues t constitutional ones.

Public opinion polls s Quebec continues to stru under the pressure of 12 per unemployment and voters hungry for politicians who offer solutions.

INVENTORY VALUABLES
The Prince Albert F Department suggests you m an inventory of your possessi

Prince Albert Daily Herald

30-10th Street East,
Prince Albert, Sask.

function can be handled in a more cost-effective manner at City Hall than at the police station, then that is where parking tickets should be paid. If not, then why put the public through the change?

As for the difficulty in dealing with disgruntled people who have just received a parking ticket, that is not going to change if tickets are paid at City Hall, the police station or a bank.

USAY y crisis here

and cranberries and many animals and birds. Take away the trees and the others are gone too.

Some argue that clearcutting and forest fires have the same effect. Not so. Pine cones need heat for them to shed their seed. Fires do that. Fires also leave ashes, a quick fertilizer for regeneration. After clearcutting, on the other hand, the forest has to be replanted, as the sun may or may not be hot enough to open the cone. Planting in sand is a tricky business. The rains have to be co-operative.

Barb, I am not a "city people". I was at one end of a cross-cut before power saws were invented and have been associated with forest conservation and extraction much of my life. I have seen thousands of square miles in Saskatchewan become "Amazon North".

I was in New Zealand when their extensive hand-planted forests matured and helped to plan the harvest. The New Zealand settlers had logged and

Aug. 29/94

Metis teleplay is accurate story

Editor,
The Herald:
Regarding the Aug. 11 column by Wayne Roznowsky, Missing Bell of Batoche vehicle for story about Metis:

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Roznowsky for taking time out of his busy schedule to read and review my book-teleplay entitled, The Missing Bell of Batoche.

Second, I am writing in an effort to clear up a few apparent misconceptions and misunderstandings contained within that review.

I spent an entire year of my life researching and writing this particular teleplay and the comment that, "... the Missing Bell of Batoche could never be considered a true historical piece", is both disappointing and disparaging at a single stroke. The "unflattering partisan view of the Millbrook, Ont., arrangements who took and held the Bell of Batoche for more than a century" that Mr. Roznowsky refers to was not conjured up maniacally or without a solid, well-researched foundation. On the contrary, this "unflatteringly partisan view", as Mr. Roznowsky puts it, is taken — verbatim — from the very mouths of the Millbrook residents interviewed on the CBC's The Journal (Nov. 15, 1991) and Saturday Report (June 16, 1990).

Admittedly, this is a sensitive cultural issue and the perpetrators of the original 1885 theft of

the bell will certainly not be coddled or lauded by the Metis community. What these three Canadian soldiers did back in 1885 was wrong, but that wrong is being compounded today by the belligerent attitudes and the aggressive verbal stances taken by their descendants. Thus, the importance of the inclusion of these short nationally broadcast segments of so-called "news" — by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Make no mistake, this is indeed a "true historical piece". It is incorrect and unfair to state otherwise. My four-page bibliography and extensive survey of television, radio, newspaper, academic and published sources attests to that fact. Clearly is it not the WonderBread brand of history that passes through our grade school and academic curriculums ... all sanitized and massaged to easily and comfortably fit into a four-minute segment between commercials.

At the end of the day, "you cannot steal something that belongs to you in the first place". The Missing Bell of Batoche belongs to the Metis people ... any and all claims to the contrary are hollow and false ... regardless of whose history books one adheres to.

Thank you for your time and consideration .. even though the attempt at a book review did this important regional project more harm than good.

Bob Rock,
Prince Albert.

Herald bouquet

A BOUQUET from the Crest Colts hockey club:
"... to recognize the following organizations and businesses for

their assistance in our hosting our first co-ed beach volleyball tournament:
"City of Prince Albert, Crescent Heights Community Club, Beaver Lumber, Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Prince Albert, Food Plus Inc., Len's Rototilling, Prince Albert Inn, Printing Support Services, P.A. Soundworks Inc., P.A. Winners Bingo, Toronto Dominion Bank, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool."

to-door salesmen.
The board of Northern Housing chose to have a banquet, at a cost in excess of \$5,000, to recognize the end of the corporate body known as Northern Housing Development (1973) Inc. Stan Rice and I attended the banquet at the invitation of the Northern Housing board to receive a plaque commemorating Northern Housing Development (1973) Inc.

In the spring of this year, representatives of the Prince Albert Health District, including myself, held meetings with the residents and families of all long-term facilities within our district. High levels of satisfaction were expressed at Birchview Home, Jubilee Lodge, Mont St. Joseph and Holy Family Hospital. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by the residents and families of

the next few years it is the Prince Albert District will receive a total \$1 million for care. This will provide needed dollars to add current inequities.

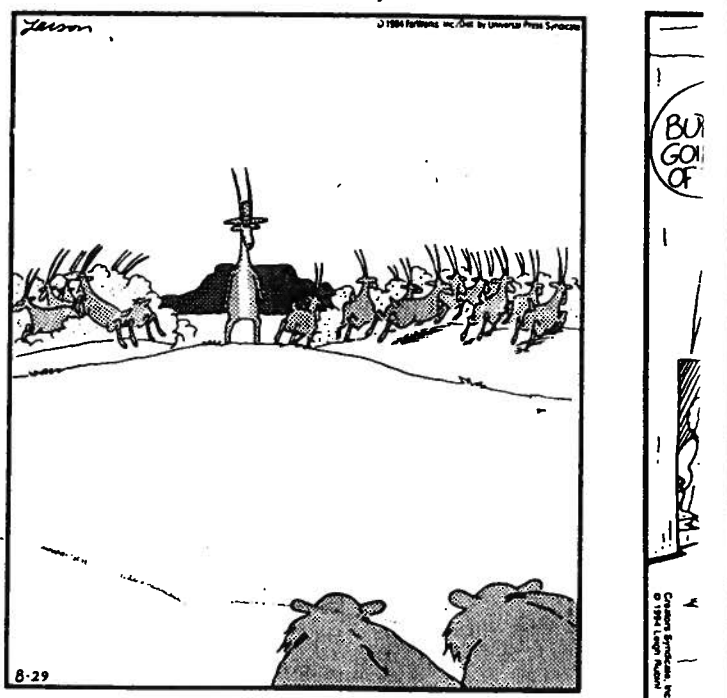
It must be recognized the past 18 months, 40 \$1.5 million has been our budget. Except for thousand dollars, all have been from the sector and the long-term budgets have been protected. Finally, it must be remembered that until April 1, budget and the restructured Northern Housing controlled by that board requests for increases were made to and denied board.

2. Costs of prescriptions for residents
The tendering process

Bible digest

By G.E. DEAN
"Nevertheless I have what against thee, because hast left thy first love. Therefore from where art fallen, and repent, a first works; or else I will unto thee quickly, and remove thy candlestick his place, except thou (Revelation 2:4-5)

THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON RUE



When the dust had settled, a lone figure was revealed standing on the small knoll. Yes, he too, was a herd animal — but he was through runnin'.

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POST SASKATCHEWAN "METIS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY" REPORT BATOCHÉ SITE, JULY 21 & 22, 1994

Views From The Metis Heartland:
By Bob Rock

I was proud to be chosen as Secretary for the first, historic Saskatchewan Metis Legislative Assembly (MLA) which gathered at the Batoche Site on July 21 and 22, 1994. I cannot speculate on how the media reports on the inner business and activities of the Metis Nation in other provinces of Canada but I was there, firsthand, for the unfurling of the MLA and the subsequent distorted and lopsided reporting by the Saskatchewan media. At present, I do not know of one intelligent, informed Saskatchewan Metis person who trusts and respects the media's conduct and delivery over the past several months. And with good reason.

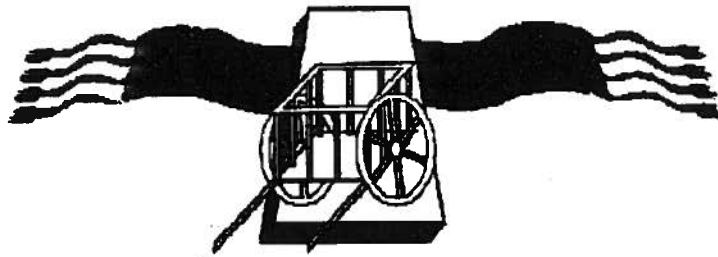
1994 is a year that will be forever etched into the collective consciousness of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. On the one hand, 1994 will be forever remembered as the year that the Federal and Provincial governments decided that it was time to gang-up on the rank-and-file of the Metis Nation and paint each and every Canadian Metis person with the tainted brush of the audit of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. 1994 will be remembered as the year that the media ran rough-shod and recklessly over the reputation of the Metis Nation. A most poignant recent example of that negative media blitz occurred at the historic Metis Legislative Assembly alluded to above. This two-day long MLA meeting passed the Metis Wildlife and Conservation Act, the first Metis legislation passed since Gabriel Dumont's "Laws of St. Laurent" in 1873. The MLA dealt with a wide variety of issues and passed a number of significant resolutions as it set-out to begin pruning and developing the Metis Nation's "living, breathing" Self-Government Constitution. But what did the media report on? The media chose, somewhat judiciously as usual, to report on the 15 to 20 minutes of political skirmishing and posturing by certain self-interested and malcontented elements bent on disrupting the MLA. The media did not report on the significance of the MLA itself, the historic legislation passed, or the relative smoothness of the very first Metis Legislative Assembly process.

1994, on the other hand, will be forever remembered as the year that the Metis Nation thumbed-its-nose at the glacier-like movement of the governments to recognize its inherent right to self-government. The Metis Nation lit a fire under that governmental "glacier" and passed its own brand new Constitution which, in essence, declared self-governance for itself. The

Metis Wildlife and Conservation Act--legislating and fostering the Metis' inherent rights to hunt, fish and gather--passed during the MLA is a true exercise in Metis self-government which, in turn, hints at the long-lasting benefits of the self-government process.

The Metis Nation is enshrined as an Aboriginal people in the Canadian Constitution yet, where is the long-provincially-promised Saskatchewan Metis Act? Where are the land claims and dormant Scrip settlements so long-in-arrears to the Metis people? Why was the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan left out of the lucrative Gaming settlement recently rewarded to the FSIN (Federation of Saskatchewan Indians)? If the Canadian Constitution is intent on "talking the talk" of indigenous self-government, then the Federal and Provincial governments had better be prepared to "walk the walk."

Recently re-elected Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Ovide Mercredi, had an urgent message for Ottawa. Mercredi told Jean Chretien, "The Chiefs are coming!" Faire attention, Monsieur Chretien et Monsieur Romanow, "The Metis Nation has already arrived!" But you won't read, see, or hear about it in the media...they are much too preoccupied with covering the "Sideshow" away from the "Mid-way."



Oath of Office

I

am a Métis

As a Métis

I Honor with pride the blood of both my mother and father.

As a Métis

I acknowledge the rich history of my people
and the courage and dedication of my ancestors.

As a Métis

I pledge to preserve the spirit and the identity of my people.
As a Métis, I confirm my commitment to my community,
my people, my Nation.

As a Métis

I accept my responsibility to put service to my people
ahead of self interest, and to honor the spirit of
the Creator and the Métis Nation.

Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year 19____

Métis Elders